

PATENT SPECIFICATION

DRAWINGS ATTACHED

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

Means for Assisting in and a method for the Laying of Floor Coverings

I, DAVID MACKIE SLEEP, a British subject, of Orchard Farm, Nash Lane, Seaynes Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex, do hereby declare the invention, for which I pray that a patent may be granted to me, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to means for assisting in and a method for the laying of floor coverings and is especially useful when it is desired wholly to cover a floor with a floor covering, such as carpet, linoleum or sheet vinyl flooring, which coverings will hereinafter be referred to as carpets.

Modern tendencies in floor coverings undoubtedly lean to the provision of what are known as fitted carpets or fitted linoleum or vinyl flooring, that is to say the floor covering is laid over the whole area of the floor and made to fit the contour of the skirting board or the wall.

To one not skilled in the art of carpet laying, the problem of obtaining a neat, clean fitting of the carpet against the skirting is one which presents some real difficulties, one of which is due to the fact that when the roll of carpet is put on the floor and unrolled, the general method is to unroll it so that the edge of the carpet lies against the vertical face of the wall or skirting and the carpet has to be bent back or scribed so as to have markings on one surface to indicate the desired line of cut so as to obtain an edge which will have a clean fit with the join between the flooring and the skirting board. It is this operation which frequently leads to considerable difficulty and the object of this invention is to provide means to assist the laying of the carpet which will provide a method of laying which overcomes the above disadvantages.

According to the present invention means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets as herein defined comprises a strip or sheet of

flexible material, for example paper or tape, which is provided on one surface with a coating of adhesive which covers substantially the whole of said surface and which, on the opposed surface is provided with adhesive over only preselected areas, but not the whole area.

It is preferred to employ a pressure sensitive adhesive and on that surface of the strip or sheet which has adhesive on only preselected areas, the adhesive may be provided in rows or bands, in spaced parallel relationship. Preferably, the bands of adhesive are arranged towards one edge of the sheet, which edge will hereinafter be termed the trailing edge, so that, in the vicinity of the other edge, hereinafter to be termed the leading edge, one surface of the strip is free from adhesive. The surfaces of the sheet are preferably protected by a sheet of double-sided-release paper which may be of a different colour.

The sheet is preferably made of paper.

The invention will now be described with reference to the accompanying drawing which shows the underside of part of a sheet of the flexible material, with one corner peeled back from the double-sided-release paper to show the top surface.

Referring to the drawing, means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets comprises a sheet of paper 1 coated on one surface, hereinafter referred to as the upper surface 2, over the whole area thereof with a pressure sensitive adhesive, the other surface of the paper hereinafter referred to as the lower surface 3, being coated in preselected areas with the a similar pressure sensitive adhesive. On the lower surface 3, towards the one edge, i.e. the aforesaid trailing edge 4 of the paper 1, a wide band 5 of adhesive is applied. In spaced parallel relationship with the wide band 5 of adhesive, and towards the opposite i.e. leading edge 6, a further narrower band 7 of adhesive is applied, the width of the band 7 preferably

being approximately half that of the band 5. Although only two bands 5,7 of adhesive are shown, it will be understood that more bands of adhesive could be applied, each of diminishing width towards the leading edge, but leaving substantially a third of the area 8, of the lower surface 3 of the sheet, adjacent the leading edge 6, free of adhesive. The bands of adhesive are so arranged that the area adjacent the trailing edge 4 will possess strong powers of adhesion, which adhesion will gradually fall off to nothing over the area 8 adjacent the leading edge 6.

The upper surface 2 of the sheet of paper, as already described, is covered over its entire area with adhesive, and is provided with a double-sided-release paper covering sheet 9, i.e. the type in which a sheet is suitably treated on both sides so as to be capable of adhering to the adhesive, and yet be capable of being peeled back. The sheet of paper 1 is usually supplied in rolls, which necessitates the covering sheet 9 being of the double-sided-release type, so that it will not permanently adhere to the two bands 5 and 7 of adhesive on the lower surface of the paper 1 when it is rolled up. The covering sheet 9 is preferably of a different colour from the paper 1 to enable easy distinction therebetween.

The method of installing a carpet will now be described. The carpet is first positioned in the room ready for cutting. It is then cut down to approximate size and shape to enable the carpet to be laid flat on the floor and to curl a short distance up the walls, whereupon it is stretched and held in position with temporary tacks about 12 inches from the wall. The edges of the carpet are then rolled back and the paper 1 is placed with its lower surface 2 downwards, upon the floor immediately adjacent the skirting so that the leading edge 6 of the paper is in alignment with, but overlapping, the joint between the skirting and the floor.

The leading edge 6 is now curved up the skirting. Light pressure is applied to the paper in order to secure it temporarily to the floor. The paper is then pressed firmly with the fingertips into the corner of the floor and skirting, so that it folds up the skirting, the fold being accurately pressed into the angle of skirting and floor, so that the fold takes the outline of the skirting. The paper is then cut along the fold and the surplus removed, thus fitting the paper on the floor accurately to the skirting. The protective double-sided-release paper sheet 9 is then removed from the surface 2, thus disclosing the fully adhesive-covered surface of the paper. The carpet to be fitted is then unrolled so that its edge projects over and beyond the paper 2, so that a certain amount of the carpet naturally assumes a curve lying up against the wall. Pressure is then applied to the carpet so that it is caused to adhere to the paper; the carpet is then

rolled back from the wall and, due to the greater adhesive power between the under surface of the carpet and the adhesive paper on the one hand and the adhesive paper and the floor on the other, the adhesive paper is removed from the floor. The carpet is pulled back gently so that it is ensured that the paper pulls off the floor and adheres to the back of the carpet. All that now needs to be done is for the person laying the carpet to cut away the carpet along the cut edge of the adhesive paper; once this is done the paper can be removed from the carpet and the carpet can be rolled back. It will then be found that the carpet is neatly and cleanly laid right up to the skirting board, so that a pleasing effect is obtained with a fitted carpet. It is, of course, obvious that the adhesive paper must be used wherever the carpet has to be fitted against the skirting or other part of the wall or architraves.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets as herein defined comprising a strip or sheet of flexible material, for example paper or tape, which is provided on one surface with a coating of adhesive which covers substantially the whole of said surface and which, on the opposed surface is provided with adhesive over only preselected areas, but not the whole area.

2. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to claim 1 in which the adhesive is pressure sensitive.

3. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to either claim 1 or claim 2, in which the preselected areas are arranged towards one edge of the sheet, thereby leaving an area of the sheet in the vicinity of the other edge free from adhesive.

4. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to any of claims 1—3 in which the preselected areas comprise bands, spaced apart in parallel relationship.

5. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to claim 4, in which two bands are provided the one nearer an edge of the sheet being substantially twice the width of the other.

6. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to any one of the previous claims in which the surface, which is coated with adhesive over substantially the whole area, is provided with a releasable protective sheet.

7. Means for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets according to claim 6, in which the protective sheet is suitably treated on both surfaces to form a double-sided-release covering sheet.

8. A strip of material for facilitating the laying of fitted carpets and the like as herein defined substantially as herein described and illustrated with reference to the accompanying drawing.

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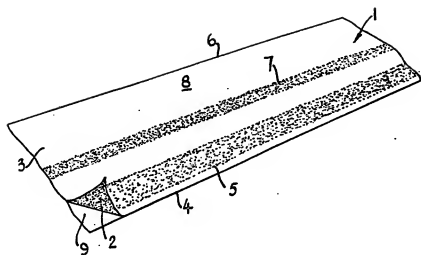
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

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